

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-10 SAJ-01 SAM-01 /080 W

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R 191058Z DEC 74

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 778

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 220

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: CHURCHMEN SEEK PROVO CEASEFIRE:

REF: BELFAST 214

1. BBC NORTHERN IRELAND REPORTED DEC. 17 ANOTHER GROUP OF CLERGYMEN, CATHOLICS IN PAX CHRISTI, HAD MET WITH NORTHERN MEMBERS PROVISIONAL IN DUBLIN TO SEEK CHRISTMAS PEACE. THIS REPORT WAS COUPLED WITH NEWS THAT DELEGATION PROTESTANT CLERGYMEN WHO MET PROVOS IN COUNTY CLARE (REFTTEL) TRAVELED TO LONDON DEC. 18 FOR TALKS WITH SECSTATE REES. BBC REPORT CAUTIOUSLY REPORTED REES VERY MUCH IN LISTENING STANCE AND THAT THIS REPLY TO CHURCHMAN WAS THAT GENUINE CESSATION OF VIOLENCE WOULD BRING NEW SITUATION TO WHICH GOVERNMENT WOULD NATURALLY RESPOND.

2. ATTITUDES TOWARD CLERGY INITIATIVE REMAIN VARIED. AS PRESS SPECULATES THAT PROVISIONALS CONSIDERING CHRISTMAS "TRUCE" LOCAL POLITICANS GENUINELY BEWILDERED ABOUT HOW TO REACT. THEY CANNOT APPEAR TO OPPOSE PEACE BUT THEY CANNOT ENDORSE ANY APPEARANCE OF "NEGOTIATIONS" WITH PROVISIONAL IRA. POLITICAL COMMENTATORS IN NEWS MEDIA AGREE THAT IF PROTESTANT

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CLERGY NOT RPT NOT NEGOTIATING THEY CERTAINLY IN INTERMEDIARY

POSITION.

3. REV. IAN PAISLEY IN BBC NORTHERN IRELAND TELEVISION FEATURE DEC. 18 SAID HE HAD DISCOVERED CLERGY HAD SPOKEN TO BOTH IRA AND REES ON SIX POINT PROPOSAL: (A) IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE, (B) ALL DETAINEES TO BE RELEASED WITHIN ONE MONTH, (C) IF CEASEFIRE HELD ARMY TO BE WITHDRAWN TO BARRACKS WITHIN TWO MONTHS (D) IF PEACE HELD POLICE TO BE DISARMED (E) POLICE BE ASSISTED BY LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS (F) PRISONERS WITH POLITICAL STATUS TO BE PAROLED AND RELEASED.

4. IF PAISLEY CORRECT IT CONGEN VIEW THAT UNILATERAL DECLARATION CEASEFIRE ON PART PROVISIONALS COULD BRING ABOUT (B) AND (C) IF THERE SOME FLEXIBILITY AS TO IMPLEMENTATION TIMES. HOWEVER (D) (E) AND (F) LESS FEASIBLE OVER LOYALIST OBJECTIONS. IT NOTED PROPOSAL AS REPORTED BY PAISLEY DOES NOT RPT NOT INCLUDE PROVISION OF PROVISIONAL SINE QUA NON WHICH IS DECLARATION BRITISH INTENT WITHDRAW FROM NORTHERN IRELAND.
SPICER

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